

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
Plaintiff,)
v.)
CITY OF BOSTON,)
MASSACHUSETTS; THOMAS M.)
MENINO, in his official capacity as)
Mayor of the City of Boston;)
BOSTON CITY COUNCIL:)
MICHAEL F. FLAHERTY, PAUL J.)
SCAPICCHIO, JAMES M. KELLY,)
MAUREEN E. FEENEY,)
CHARLES C. YANCEY, ROB)
CONSALVO, JOHN TOBIN,)
CHUCK TURNER, MICHAEL P.)
ROSS, JERRY P. MCDERMOTT,)
FELIX D. ARROYO, MAURA)
HENNIGAN, STEPHEN J.)
MURPHY; BOSTON ELECTION)
DEPARTMENT; GERALDINE)
CUDDYER, in her official capacity)
as Chair of the Boston Election)
Department,)
Defendants.)

RE 7/29/05
AC 250.00
W
M
AC
BY DEPUTY CLERK
DATE 7-29-05
DJ

CIVIL ACTION No.

COMPLAINT

THREE-JUDGE COURT

05-11330-WGY
Referred to MJ Leo T. Sorokin

COMPLAINT

The United States of America, Plaintiff herein, alleges:

1. The Attorney General files this action seeking injunctive and declaratory relief pursuant to Sections 2, 3, 12(d), and 203 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1973, 1973a(a), 1973j(d), 1973aa-1a, 1973aa-2, and 28 U.S.C. § 2201.

JURISDICTION

2. This Court has jurisdiction of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1335 and 42 U.S.C. §§ 1973j(f), 1973aa-2. The claim pursuant to Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act requires that the action be heard and determined by a court of three judges in accordance with the provisions of 42 U.S.C. § 1973aa-2 and 28 U.S.C. § 2284.

PARTIES

3. Defendant City of Boston ("City" or "Boston") is a geographical and political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("Commonwealth" or "Massachusetts") and exists as a charter city organized pursuant to the laws of Massachusetts.

4. Defendant Thomas M. Menino is the Mayor of Boston, with the responsibility of serving as the chief executive officer of the City, appointing the members of the Election Department and selecting election officers. Defendant Menino is a resident of Boston and is sued in his official capacity.

5. Defendant City Council is the legislative body of the City of Boston, with responsibilities which include adopting appropriations and making bylaws or ordinances, including those which impose duties of the City on departments and department heads.

6. Defendant Michael F. Flaherty is the City Council President. Defendant Flaherty is a resident of the City and is sued in his official capacity.

7. Defendants Paul J. Scapicchio, James M. Kelly, Maureen E. Feeney, Charles C. Yancey, Rob Consalvo, John Tobin, Chuck Turner, Michael P. Ross, Jerry P. McDermott, Felix D.

Arroyo, Maura Hennigan, and Stephen J. Murphy are Members of the City Council. Each of these Defendants is a resident of the City and is sued in his or her official capacity.

8. Defendant Election Department is the City department responsible for the conduct of voter registration and elections held in the City. The Election Department conducts all municipal, state, and federal elections within the City and is responsible to ensure that elections are properly managed and conducted in accordance with municipal, state, and federal laws.

9. Defendant Geraldine Cuddyer is the Chair of the Election Department, with duties, powers, and responsibilities concerning the administration of elections held in Boston. Defendant Cuddyer is a resident of the City and is sued in her official capacity.

ALLEGATIONS

10. According to the 2000 Census, Boston has a total population of 589,141, and a citizen voting-age population of 388,579 persons. Boston's Hispanic population is 85,089, representing 14.4% of the City's total population. There are 33,596 Hispanic voting age citizens, representing 8.6% of the City's citizen voting age population. Boston's Chinese population is 19,885 and the Vietnamese population is 11,126, representing 3.4% and 1.8% respectively of the City's total population. There are 9,825 and 4,220 Chinese and Vietnamese voting age citizens respectively among whom 50.1% of the Chinese citizen voting age population and 61.2% of the Vietnamese citizen voting age population are limited English proficient.

11. Boston is subject to the requirements of Section 203 for the Spanish language, pursuant to the designation by the Director of the Census. The Director has determined that more than 10,000 of Boston's voting-age citizens are members of a single language minority group

(Spanish heritage or Hispanic) who do not speak or understand English well enough to participate in the English-language election process and have an illiteracy rate that is higher than the national illiteracy rate. 42 U.S.C. § 1973aa-1a(b)(2); see also 67 Fed. Reg. 48,871 (July 26, 2002). The determination of the Census Bureau that the City of Boston is covered by Section 203 for Spanish is final and non-reviewable. 42 U.S.C. § 1973aa-1a(b)(4).

12. The City of Boston has been continuously covered under Section 203 to provide bilingual elections in Spanish since September 18, 1992. 57 Fed. Reg. 43,213 (Sept. 18, 1992); 67 Fed. Reg. 48,871 (July 26, 2002). The Department of Justice has directly notified election officials, including Boston election officials, in all jurisdictions covered under Section 203 and has provided information regarding the requirements of Section 203. The Department of Justice directly notified Boston election officials of its Section 203 responsibilities in meetings between Civil Rights Division attorney and the City's Election Department Chairs subsequent to the 1990 and 2000 Census designations, respectively, and in letters dated September 21, 1992, July 26, 2002, and August 31, 2004.

13. Because the city of Boston is subject to the requirements of Section 203, "any registration or voting notice, forms, instructions, assistance, or other materials or information relating to the electoral process, including ballots" that Defendants provide in English must also be furnished in Spanish. 42 U.S.C. § 1973aa-1a.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

14. Plaintiff hereby realleges and reincorporates by reference paragraphs 1-13 above.
15. In conducting elections in Boston, Defendants have failed to provide election-

related materials, information, and/or assistance in Spanish including, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) Failing to recruit, appoint, train, and maintain an adequate pool of bilingual poll officials capable of providing effective language election information and assistance to limited English proficient Hispanic citizens; and
- (b) Failing to translate into Spanish all election-related announcements, instructions, and notices at election sites; and in particular, failing to translate into Spanish information available in English on the Election Department's website, or to have any effective alternate method of disseminating such information in Spanish.

16. Defendants' failure to provide assistance at all of the polls when such assistance is needed, to recruit, train and assign bilingual poll workers and to translate election information in Spanish and provide adequate bilingual assistance, as described herein, constitutes a violation of Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1973aa-1a.

17. Unless enjoined by this Court, Defendants will continue to violate Section 203 by failing to provide limited English proficient Hispanic citizens of Boston with Spanish-language election information and assistance necessary for their effective political participation.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

18. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and reincorporates by reference to paragraphs 1-17 above.

19. Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act prohibits Defendants from applying or imposing any "voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure" which

results in a denial or abridgment of the right to vote on account of race or color, or membership in a language minority group, including Asian American citizens and citizens of Spanish heritage.

20. In conducting elections in Boston, Defendants have abridged the right of limited English proficient members of language minority groups to vote, in their actions:

- (a) Treating limited English proficient Hispanic and Asian American voters disrespectfully;
- (b) Refusing to permit limited English proficient Hispanic and Asian American voters to be assisted by an assistor of their choice;
- (c) Improperly influencing, coercing or ignoring the ballot choices of limited English proficient Hispanic and Asian American voters;
- (d) Failing to make available bilingual personnel to provide effectively assistance and information needed by minority language voters; and
- (e) Refusing or failing to provide provisional ballots to limited English proficient Hispanic and Asian American voters.

21. Under the totality of the circumstances that exist in Boston, Defendants' conduct has had the effect of denying limited English proficient Hispanic and Asian American voters an equal opportunity to participate in the political process and to elect candidates of their choice on an equal basis with other citizens in violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1973.

22. Unless enjoined by this Court, Defendants will continue to violate Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1973, by enforcing standards, practices, or procedures that deny limited English proficient Hispanic and Asian American voters the opportunity to participate effectively in the political process on an equal basis with other members of the electorate.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff, United States, prays that this Court enter an order:

1. With respect to Plaintiff's First Cause of Action:
 - (a) Declaring that Defendants have failed to provide Spanish language election information and assistance necessary to those who require it in Spanish in violation of Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1973aa-1a;
 - (b) Enjoining Defendants, their employees, agents and successors in office, and all persons acting in concert with them, from failing to provide Spanish language election information and assistance to persons with limited English proficiency as required by Section 203, 42 U.S.C. § 1973aa-1a; and
 - (c) Requiring Defendants to devise, publicize and implement a remedial plan to ensure that Spanish-speaking citizens are able to participate in all phases of the electoral process as required by Section 203, 42 U.S.C. § 1973aa-1a.
2. With respect to Plaintiff's Second Cause of Action:
 - (a) Declaring that Defendants have violated Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1973, because their actions have resulted in the denial or abridgement of the rights of limited English proficient Hispanic and Asian American voters;
 - (b) Enjoining Defendants, their agents and successors in office, and all persons acting in concert with them, from implementing practices and procedures that deny or abridge the rights of limited English proficient Hispanic and Asian American citizens in violation of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1973; and
 - (c) Requiring Defendants to devise and implement a remedial program that provides

Boston's limited English proficient Hispanic and Asian American citizens the opportunity to fully participate in the political process consistent with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1973.

3. Plaintiff further requests that this Court:

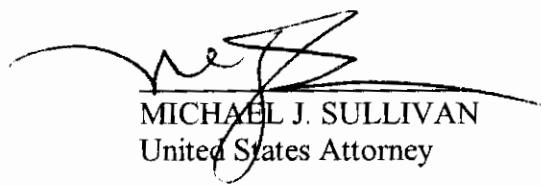
- (a) Authorize the appointment of federal examiners for elections held in Boston pursuant to Section 3(a) of the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1973a(a) until December 31, 2007;
- (b) Award Plaintiff the costs and disbursements associated with the filing and maintenance of this action; and
- (c) Award such other equitable and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Date: ____ day of July, 2005

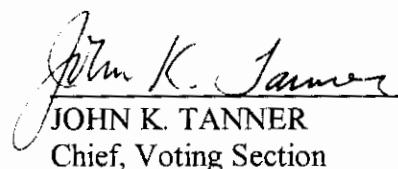
ALBERTO GONZALES
Attorney General



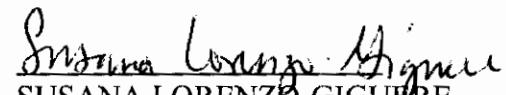
BRADLEY J. SCHLOZMAN
Acting Assistant Attorney General



MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN
United States Attorney



JOHN K. TANNER
Chief, Voting Section



SUSANA LORENZO-GIGUERE
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Washington, D.C. 20530
(202) 514-9822

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEFENDANTS

City of Boston, et al.

05-11598 WGY

County of Residence of First Listed

(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff

(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

John Tanner/Susana Lorenzo-Gioguere
Civil Rights Division-NWB, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530
(202) 514-9822

Attorneys (If Known)

Mark Sweeney
City of Boston
One City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

1 U.S. Government Plaintiff

13 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)

12 U.S. Government Defendant

14 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

DEF

DEF

Citizen of This State 1 1 Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State 14 14

Citizen of Another State 12 2 Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State 15 15

Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country 13 3 Foreign Nation 16 16

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL INJURY		
<input type="checkbox"/> 120 Manne	<input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane	<input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment
<input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	<input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust
<input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument	<input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander	<input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability	PROPERTY RIGHTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking
<input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	<input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability		<input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce/ICC Rates/etc.	
<input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud	<input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)	<input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending	<input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations	
<input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service	
<input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits	<input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange	
<input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury		<input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410	
<input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability			<input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts	
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIONS	SOCIAL SECURITY	<input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation	<input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting	<input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence	<input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff)	<input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters
<input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure	<input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> 520 Habeas Corpus: Accommodations	<input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923)	<input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	<input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/ Accommodations	<input type="checkbox"/> 530 General	<input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	<input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land	<input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare	<input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty	<input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI	<input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice
<input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))	<input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
<input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property		<input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights	FEDERAL TAX SUITS	<input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions
		<input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition	<input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS - Third Party 26 USC 7609	

V. ORIGIN

(PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

1 Original Proceeding

2 Removed from State Court

3 Remanded from Appellate Court

4 Reinstated or Reopened

Transferred from another district (specify)

(specify)

6 Multidistrict Litigation

7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

(Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write brief statement of cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.)

42 U.S.C. § 1973

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND:

Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S)

(See instructions):

IF ANY

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

1/29/05

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS1. TITLE OF CASE (NAME OF FIRST PARTY ON EACH SIDE ONLY) United States of America v. City of Boston, et al.

2. CATEGORY IN WHICH THE CASE BELONGS BASED UPON THE NUMBERED NATURE OF SUIT CODE LISTED ON THE CIVIL COVER SHEET. (SEE LOCAL RULE 40.1(A)(1)).

- I. 160, 410, 470, R.23, REGARDLESS OF NATURE OF SUIT.
- II. 195, 368, 400, 440, 441-444, 540, 550, 555, 625, 710, 720, 730, 740, 790, 791, 820*, 830*, 840*, 850, 890, 892-894, 895, 950. *Also complete AO 120 or AO 121 for patent, trademark or copyright cases
- III. 110, 120, 130, 140, 151, 190, 210, 230, 240, 245, 290, 310, 315, 320, 330, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 362, 365, 370, 371, 380, 385, 450, 891.
- IV. 220, 422, 423, 430, 460, 510, 530, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660, 690, 810, 861-865, 870, 871, 875, 900.
- V. 150, 152, 153.

05-11598 WGY

3. TITLE AND NUMBER, IF ANY, OF RELATED CASES. (SEE LOCAL RULE 40.1(G)). IF MORE THAN ONE PRIOR RELATED CASE HAS BEEN FILED IN THIS DISTRICT PLEASE INDICATE THE TITLE AND NUMBER OF THE FIRST FILED CASE IN THIS COURT.

4. HAS A PRIOR ACTION BETWEEN THE SAME PARTIES AND BASED ON THE SAME CLAIM EVER BEEN FILED IN THIS COURT?

YES NO

5. DOES THE COMPLAINT IN THIS CASE QUESTION THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF AN ACT OF CONGRESS AFFECTING THE PUBLIC INTEREST? (SEE 28 USC §2403)

YES NO

IF SO, IS THE U.S.A. OR AN OFFICER, AGENT OR EMPLOYEE OF THE U.S. A PARTY?

YES NO

6. IS THIS CASE REQUIRED TO BE HEARD AND DETERMINED BY A DISTRICT COURT OF THREE JUDGES PURSUANT TO TITLE 28 USC §2284?

YES NO7. DO ALL OF THE PARTIES IN THIS ACTION, EXCLUDING GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS ("GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES"), RESIDING IN MASSACHUSETTS RESIDE IN THE SAME DIVISION? - (SEE LOCAL RULE 40.1(D)).YES NOA. IF YES, IN WHICH DIVISION DO ALL OF THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL PARTIES RESIDE?

EASTERN DIVISION CENTRAL DIVISION WESTERN DIVISION

B. IF NO, IN WHICH DIVISION DO THE MAJORITY OF THE PLAINTIFFS OR THE ONLY PARTIES, EXCLUDING GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, RESIDING IN MASSACHUSETTS RESIDE?

EASTERN DIVISION CENTRAL DIVISION WESTERN DIVISION

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

ATTORNEY'S NAME Susana Lorenzo-GiguereADDRESS U.S. Attorney's Office, Civil Rights Division, NWB, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20530TELEPHONE NO. (202) 514-9822

(CategoryForm.wpd - 11/27/00)